



PARRA NOTES

Friday, August 19

I'm back! In Sacramento that is. We resumed our Legislative session and I only have to vote on a few hundred bills before we adjourn on **September 9th**.

During the week, I recorded two public service announcements (PSA's) that will be airing on television and radio sometime within the next couple of weeks. The first, was regarding a **Gun Safety Seminar** I will be hosting on **October 22nd** at **Burris Park** in **Kingsburg**. We will discuss safety tips and new gun laws we should all be familiar with. The second PSA I recorded was on the importance of logging onto the **Megan's Law website** (www.meganslaw.ca.gov) to see if there are any child predators living near your home or your child's school. As you may know, the **Megan's Law website** lists the pictures and addresses of registered sex offenders in the State. You can also contact either my **Hanford** or **Bakersfield District Offices** for a list of registered sex offenders living in your area.

As I mentioned in last week's "**Parra Notes**," State Attorney General **Bill Lockyer** released a report titled "**Local Criminal Justice Response to Domestic Violence**." On Thursday, during a **California State Assembly Select Committee on Domestic Violence** hearing, members of the **Attorney General's Domestic Violence Taskforce** provided us with an update on some of the findings in the report. As a result, I will be asking the Attorney General Office's to attend a meeting in my district hosted by **Jan Sublett**, Executive Director for the **Alliance Against Family Violence** and myself. Here we will provide people in my district with an update of the report. I'll keep you posted as things develop.

P.S. The Attorney General's report can be found by going to www.safestate.org.

Legislation

My legislative week started off on a roll. On Tuesday, I introduced **Assembly Concurrent Resolution (ACR) 86**. If passed, this resolution will urge all Californians to use the acronym '**ICE**' (In Case of Emergency) when selecting individuals from their cell phone directories to be contacted in case of emergencies. Next **Tuesday**, I will hold a **press conference** in the Capitol at **10:30 a.m.** to discuss the importance of using '**ICE**'.

I encourage all of you to start using ICE now. It only takes a minute. All you have to do is enter the acronym ICE with a name and phone number into your cell phones address book of the individual you would like to be contacted in case of an emergency. This gives emergency personnel another tool in assisting injured individuals.

Several of my bills went before the **Senate Appropriations Committee** this week and with much success. **ACR 58**, **AB 490**, **AB 1419** and **AB 1542** all passed through committee without a need for a hearing because they were all considered to have no fiscal impact on the state. They are all headed to the Senate floor for vote. Below you will find a brief description on those bills:

ACR 58 Foster Care will recognize the rights of foster youth as critical to ensuring their well-being and future. ACR 58 will also urge the State Departments of Social Services,

Education, Mental Health and other designated entities to develop practices to inform foster youth of their rights and available resources.

AB 490 Notice to Bid will expand the bidding pool for school district contracts by requiring that bid notices be placed in construction trade journals, giving school districts more flexibility in selecting contracts. Current law requires only the placement of notices in local newspapers.

AB 1419 Banking Licenses: Chapter Forms will allow existing consumer finance licensees to notify the Department of Corporations when they open a new branch or relocate an existing branch without the necessity of completing an application and awaiting the Commissioners approval to do so.

AB 1542 Judge Discretion on Sentencing will authorize judges to refer veterans to treatment programs in lieu of incarceration when they have been diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and have been convicted of certain crimes.

Other Highlights

PARKS FOR THE VALLEY

As many of you are probably aware, the **Central Valley** and the **30th Assembly District** in particular are lacking in **State Parks**. The Central Valley is home to only 7% of California's State Parks, and the 30th Assembly District has only 1 – **Colonel Allensworth State Park**.

In an attempt to increase the number of parks in the Valley, the **Department of Parks and Recreation** has implemented the **Central Valley Vision** – a long-term strategy to acquire and develop Valley parks. They are looking for feedback from residents and organizations about the needs, interests and potential partnership opportunities existing within the **Central Valley** and any suggestions for possible developments, expansions and/or acquisition of parks and properties.

If you have any input you would like to provide to the Department, please send any comments to:

California State Parks
Nina Gordon, Chief Planning Division
PO Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001
Fax: (916) 653-4458
Email: Ngordon@parks.ca.gov

In addition, the Department will be holding a **public meeting** in **Bakersfield** on **September 14th**. I encourage anyone who is interested in the issue to attend.

Wednesday, September 14th
4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Black Gold Theater/Kern County Museum
3801 Chester Avenue
Bakersfield

For any further information on State Parks, you can call (800) 777-0369 or go to www.parks.ca.gov

CALIFORNIA PARTNERSHIP FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

The first official meeting of the "California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley" will be held **Friday, September 16th** at the University of the Pacific in **Stockton** from **1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** This meeting is open to the public so I encourage all of you to attend.

GRANTS

My office is now distributing grant packages. Included in each package is information regarding, state, federal and private grants. To pick one up or have one mailed to you please contact Juan Cerda at **(661) 334-3745** or by e-mail at Juan.Cerda@asm.ca.gov

INTERNS WANTED

I am accepting applications for the fall internship program in my **Hanford** and **Bakersfield** district offices. Candidates should be residents of the 30th Assembly District, possess solid research and communication skills, have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the Central Valley.

Applications can be found at <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>. For more details, please contact Matt Rogers at the Hanford office at **(559) 585-7170** or by e-mail at Matt.Rogers@asm.ca.gov. For Bakersfield office internships please contact **Manuel Barrera** at **(661) 334-3745** or by e-mail at Manuel.Barrera@asm.ca.gov

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